Induction of BRAHMOS Missile

793. SHRI SHUNMUGA SUNDARAM : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to induct the Indian developed manufactured BRAHMOS missiles into the Indian Armed Forces;

(b) if so, from when and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the BRAHMOS missiles will be offered for sale to other countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) Yes Sir. After a series of successive successful flight trials from ships and land based mobile launcher, Navy is inducting this missile for some of their ships.

(c) Export potential for BRAHMOS is good. Specific clearance will be sought from both the Governments of India and Russia before exports.

Recruitment in Army

†794. SHRI HARISH RAWAT: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of declining ratio of recruitment in traditional recruitment areas of Army;

(b) whether it is a fact that there has been a considerable decline in the number of people getting recruited in various recruitment offices in the State of Uttaranchal during the last ten years;

(c) if so, whether there is a proposal for opening of some more military schools in these areas to safeguard the military tradition; and

(d) the steps Government propose to take for promotion of recruitment in Army in such areas?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is no declining ratio of recruitment in traditional recruitment areas of Army.

(b) The recruitment to the Armed Forces from the State of Uttaranchal has been steady since the creation of the State.

(c) At present, there is no proposal for opening of more military schools in the State of Uttaranchal.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(d) It is ensured that as per policy, recruitment rallies are held for all districts preferably twice a year but not less than once a year.

Defence cooperation with Singapore

795. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Singapore has asked for opening our training facilities to their Armed Forces;

(b) whether India is enhancing defence cooperation with Singapore;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) how far this joint venture would help both the countries to control terrorism?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) There is a proposal by Singapore for use of some facilities of the Indian Armed Forces for training purposes.

(b) and (c) A Defence Cooperation Agreement was signed with Singapore in October 2003. The Agreement visualizes an enhanced level of defence cooperation between Singapore and India. The areas of cooperation identified cover exchange of expertise and personnel, military training, exchange of visits, bilateral naval exercises and participation in defence related seminars and symposia.

(d) Singapore is strategically located in relation to shipping lanes between the Indian Ocean and South China Sea. Both countries are concerned about terrorism in their respective regions and beyond. Cooperation between the two would be beneficial for maritime security and combating international terrorism.

Loss of Jaguar fighters

796. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether two Jaguar fighter aircraft of IAF crashed in Kashmir valley in the first week of April this year;

(b) if so, the cause of crash in each case as established by the statutory inquiries conducted;